

REMARKS

The examiner is thanked for the Office Action mailed January 22, 2004. The applicant appreciates the examiner's indication that claims 1, 13, and 22 would be allowable if re-written in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The following request for reconsideration is intended to be responsive to the Office Action. New Power of Attorney forms are also being submitted concurrent with this application.

In the Office Action, claims 1-5, 7-11 and 14-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 4,275,534 to Porter in view of U.S. Patent 6,244,010 to Sluiter. Claim 6 was previously rejected under U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Porter in view of Sluiter and further in view of U.S. Patent 4,173,855 to Raptoplous. As indicated above, claims 12, 13 and 22 were objected to as being dependent on rejected base claims.

In this amendment, the limitations of dependent claim 22 have been written directly into independent claim 1. It is submitted that amended independent claim 1 is now in condition for allowance. Since claims 2-11, 14-21 and 23-25 are dependent on claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-11, 14-21, and 23-25 are in condition for allowance. Claim 22 has been canceled because it is redundant with respect to amended claim 1.

Specifically, it is submitted that amended independent claim 1 is allowable because the prior art fails to disclose a roof structure comprising an essentially non-load supporting, vertically extending central column having a lower end spaced above a supporting structure of said roof structure. The roof structure has a plurality of at least three elongated and vertically inclined, multi-element trusses fixedly joined on innermost ends thereof to the central column. The trusses are rotationally displaced from one another in a horizontal plane, so that each of the trusses extends radially outwardly and downwardly from the central column to an outer end portion thereof for mounting on a weight bearing supporting structure at a level spaced above the supporting surface of the building and below the lower end of the column. The plurality of trusses define a roof structure in the form of a cone shaped polygon. Each of the trusses comprises an upper beam which is vertically inclined at a first angle relative to horizontal and a lower beam disposed below the upper beam which is inclined at a second angle relative to horizontal, the first angle being greater than the second angle so that corresponding ends of the upper beam and the lower beam at an innermost end of each of the trusses are vertically spaced apart to a greater extent than are opposite corresponding ends of the upper beam and the lower beam at an outermost end of each of the trusses and are fixed in position relative to upper and lower end portions of the central column, respectively.

With regard to original claim 12 and new claim 26, claim 12 has been re-written in independent form as new claim 26. New claim 26 includes all the limitations of independent claim 1 and dependent claims 3 and 12. It is submitted that new independent

claim 26 is in condition for allowance. Original claim 12 has been canceled because it is now redundant with new claim 26.

Specifically, it is submitted that new independent claim 26 is allowable because the prior art fails to disclose a roof structure comprising an essentially non-load supporting, vertically extending central column having a lower end spaced above a supporting structure of the roof structure. The roof structure has a plurality of at least three elongated and vertically inclined, multi-element trusses fixedly joined on innermost ends thereof to the central column. The trusses are rotationally displaced from one another in a horizontal plane, so that each of the trusses extends radially outwardly and downwardly from the central column to an outer end portion thereof for mounting on a weight bearing supporting structure at a level spaced above the supporting surface of the building and below the lower end of the column. The plurality of trusses define a roof structure in the form of a cone shaped polygon. Each of the multi-element trusses comprises an elongate upper beam, an elongate lower beam spaced below the upper beam, and a plurality of vertically extending spacer members radially spaced apart and connected between the beams to form a series of truss sections between the adjacent spacer members. The multi-element trusses also include a series of diagonally extending elongate reinforcing members. A different reinforcing member is disposed in each of the truss sections, so that each of the reinforcing members are connected on a lower, radially outer end to an intersection between the lower beam and one of the spacer members on a radially outer end of a corresponding truss section. The reinforcing member is also connected on an upper, radially inner end to an intersection between the upper beam and

one of the spacer members on a radially inner end of a corresponding truss sections. A radially outer end portion of each of the upper beams projects outwardly beyond a corresponding outermost one of the spacer members. An outer end of each of the upper beams is connected to an angular intersection between two adjoining mounting plates. A series of elongate wood board trim members is connected on end portions to the mounting plates to form a polygonal peripheral border around the roof structure.

With regard to original claim 13 and new claim 27, claim 13 has been re-written in independent form as new claim 27. New claim 27 includes all the limitations of independent claim 1 and dependent claims 3 and 13. It is submitted that new independent claim 27 is now in condition for allowance. Original claim 13 has been canceled because it is now redundant with new claim 27.

Specifically, it is submitted that new independent claim 27 is allowable because the prior art fails to disclose a roof structure comprising an essentially non-load supporting, vertically extending central column having a lower end spaced above a supporting structure of the roof structure. The roof structure has a plurality of at least three elongated and vertically inclined, multi-element trusses fixedly joined on innermost ends thereof to the central column. The trusses are rotationally displaced from one another in a horizontal plane, so that each of the trusses extends radially outwardly and downwardly from the central column to an outer end portion thereof for mounting on a weight bearing supporting structure at a level spaced above the supporting surface of the

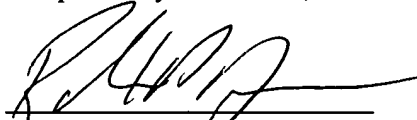
building and below the lower end of the column. The plurality of trusses define a roof structure in the form of a cone shaped polygon. Each of the multi-element trusses comprises an elongate upper beam, an elongate lower beam spaced below the upper beam, and a plurality of vertically extending spacer members radially spaced apart and connected between the beams to form a series of truss sections between the adjacent spacer members. The multi-element trusses also include a series of diagonally extending elongate reinforcing members. A different reinforcing member is disposed in each of the truss sections, so that each of the reinforcing members are connected on a lower, radially outer end to an intersection between the lower beam and one of the spacer members on a radially outer end of a corresponding truss section. The reinforcing member is also connected on an upper, radially inner end to an intersection between the upper beam and one of the spacer members on a radially inner end of a corresponding truss sections. A radially outer end portion of the upper beam projects radially outwardly beyond a radially outermost spacer member. The radially outermost spacer member extends vertically downwardly below a radially outer end of the lower beam. A lower end portion of the radially outermost spacer member is located below the lower beam and is attached to the weight bearing support.

With regard to new claim 28, new claim 28 is comprised of the limitations of claims 1 and 22. New claim 28 is an essentially verbatim reproduction of the examiner's statement on page 2 of the Office Action regarding the subject matter of claim 22.

Specifically, it is submitted that new independent claim 28 is allowable because the prior art fails to disclose a building structure having a non-load bearing central member connected to radially spaced trusses which extend below the central member so that an outer end portion of each the trusses engages a support structure. Each of the trusses is comprised of upper and lower support beams. The upper support beams are spaced from the lower support beams where the upper and lower support beams intersect the central member.

It is respectfully submitted that the examiner's rejections have been fully addressed and the application is now in condition for allowance. In the event that the Commissioner determines that an additional extension of time and/or a fee is required in connection with this submission, please accept this submission as providing a request for such extension, and as authorization for charging such fee to Deposit Account No. 50-0548.

Respectfully submitted,



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